



Illustration by David H. Wagner;
From 'Guide to the Species of Botrychium in Oregon'

BOTRYCHIUM MONTANUM **MOUNTAIN MOONWORT**

Mountain Moonwort is a perennial with a single aboveground frond up to 12 cm tall. It is dull, glaucous gray-green, somewhat succulent, and divided into two segments that share a relatively short common stalk. The sterile segment is once pinnatifid with well separated, irregular, angular, ascending lobes with entire or toothed margins. The fertile segment is longer than the sterile segment, is branched, and bears grape-like sporangia. Fronds mature in July-August.

Distinguished from *BOTRYCHIUM ASCENDENS* by the glaucous gray-green color, succulent texture, relatively short common stalk, and irregular angular lobes rather than distinct pinnae. Positive identification of moonworts depends on the use of technical keys and on comparison with silhouette outlines of verified specimens, often complicated by morphological variation in and between populations, and the presence of more than one species growing together at the same site.